Drinking water scheme for Chennai

*299. S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have approved/sanctioned a drinking water scheme from the desalination process for Chennai city recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the viability of this project;

(d) whether Government would clear such projects for all the sea-based cities and towns; and

(e) the details of the criteria to be fulfilled for such schemes?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) A project concept note was received from Government of Tamil Nadu in April, 2004 for setting up of 300 MLD Desalination Plant at Chennai. Details of the project are yet to be finalized.

(d) and (e) in his speech while presenting the Budget 2004-05, the Finance Minister has announced the proposal for installation of Desalination Plants near Chennai and other places along the Coromandal coast. In pursuance of the said announcement, the Ministry of Urban Development has advised the State Governments of Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Pondicherry, for identification of towns and submission of detailed project reports.

Meals for students of Government schools in Maharashtra

*300. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Maharashtra Government has requested for grant of financial assistance of Rs. 90 crores for providing cooked meal to the students of the State Government Schools;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes Sir.